

# Cultures OF THE World

## ASIA & THE FAR EAST

REM 466D

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



AUTHOR  
Linda Miller

ILLUSTRATIONS  
Wayne Reich

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Cultures of the World

## Facts & Figures

### Asia and the Far East

Many of the stories in this book tell about the types of money used in Asia and the Far East. Different countries have different names for money. Look at the chart to see what each coin is worth compared to the United States dollar.

Country	Money	Worth (2003)
United States	dollar	\$1.00
Russia	ruble	\$.03
China	yuan	\$.12
India	rupee	\$.02
Japan	yen	\$.008
Philippines	peso	\$.02
Thailand	baht	\$.02



### Asia and the Far East Population Chart

Country	Number of People (as of 2003)
Russia	141,364,000
China	1,319,132,000
India	1,067,421,000
Japan	127,708,000
Philippines	81,636,000
Thailand	63,393,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of Russia

At one time, Russia was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was made up of 15 republics, with Russia being the largest republic. Most of the people live in Russia. Russian is the main language.

Long ago, Russia was ruled by kings, called “czars” (zars). They had all the power. Some of them were very cruel.

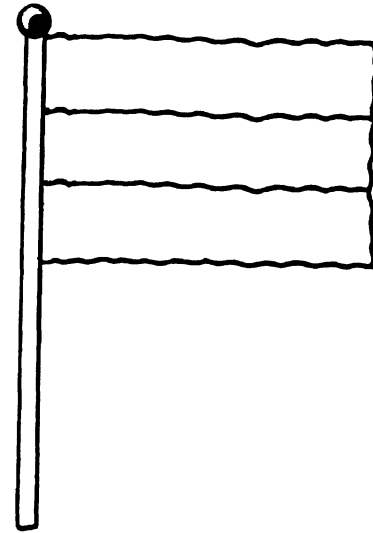
In 1985, many changes took place in the Soviet Union. A new president took over. The government was reformed. Many of the republics became independent countries. Russia became independent in 1991.

Before the breakup of the Soviet Union, a group of people ran the government. They were members of the communist party. The government owned all the farms, stores, and schools. It told people what to read and how they were to live.

It was always hard for a family to find enough food in Russia. People stood in line for hours to shop. The government told the people where to live. If someone wanted to move, he/she had to ask if it was okay. People could not come and go like we do in the United States.

Now, the people of Russia vote for their government leaders. They can own property. They can start their own businesses. They have the freedom to choose the kind of lives they want.

The capital of Russia is Moscow. It is the fourth largest city in the world. The center of Moscow is a busy place. Parades and celebrations are held there. Nearby is the Kremlin. The Communist Party held its meetings there. A big church is also near the center of Moscow. It has many domes and is painted in many colors. You may have seen it on TV news shows. Most of the other buildings in Russia are very plain. So are the homes.



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**Write one or more facts about Russia for each topic below.**

1. what it was once part of: \_\_\_\_\_
2. the main language spoken: \_\_\_\_\_
3. the czars: \_\_\_\_\_
4. the group of people who ran the government: \_\_\_\_\_
5. what people want: \_\_\_\_\_
6. capital of Russia: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Letters from Far-Away Friends

Two boys are pen pals. One lives in Russia and one lives in the United States. They share the same first name. Pyotr is Russian for Peter.

Peter was surprised to learn that Pyotr goes to school six days a week. Saturdays are half days in class.

Pyotr takes classes after school, too. He learns folk dances, and he plays chess. Chess is a board game which makes him think.

Science and math are the most important subjects in Russia. If Pyotr does well in them, he will someday get a good job.

Pyotr lives in Moscow. His home is a three-room apartment. His parents both work. Most Russian women work outside the home. They also cook, clean, and do chores at home.

Peter learned that Pyotr eats some of the same foods he does. Both boys like chicken and cheese. Pyotr also eats soup made with beets. Peter didn't like the thought of that.

Pyotr wrote that he walks or takes a train to get places. He said there are few cars in Moscow.



Use the code to learn more about Russia.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- the weather in most of Russia      22 5 18 25      3 15 12 4
- a type of dance loved by the Russians      2 1 12 12 5 20
- there are 2,000 of these in Russia      13 21 19 5 21 13 19
- an American restaurant that recently opened for the first time in Moscow      13 3 4 15 14 1 12 4 19
- an important activity for many Russians      1 20 8 12 5 20 9 3 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sharing Words

Pyotr learns to read and write English in school. That is how he can write letters to his friend in the United States.

Russian children learn more than one language. All of them must learn to read, write, and speak Russian. They may also learn to speak like others in the town in which they live.

In big cities, the children may learn English, French, or German.

Pyotr and Peter share the meanings of words. Pyotr wrote that a “cosmonaut” is a person who travels in space. Peter wrote back that in the United States the same person is called an “astronaut.”

The Russian alphabet has 33 letters. It is based on Greek letters. In the United States, the alphabet has 26 letters. It is based on Roman letters. Some Russian letters look like English letters.

Peter learned that in Russia he would be called a “student.” What do you think that means?



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**Below is a list of words and names from Russia. See if you can figure out what they mean in English. Use a dictionary to help you with the spellings.**

Russian Word:	English Word:
<i>automobil</i>	_____
<i>autobus</i>	_____
<i>futbol</i>	_____
<i>Mikhail</i>	_____
<i>Ivan</i>	_____
<i>fotograf</i>	_____
<i>Amyerika</i>	_____

**Here is how to say “Hello,” “Goodbye,” and “Thank You” in Russian. Practice saying these words in case you ever have a Russian pen pal or friend.**

Hello = Zdrastvoukee      Goodbye = Do zuidaniya

Thank You = Spasibo

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Space Race

For many years, the United States and Russia were in a space race. The goal was to see who could explore outer space the best.

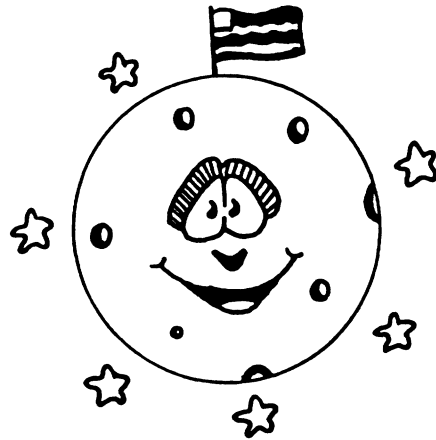
Both sides have had many “firsts.” Russia was the first to send up a spaceship. It was a small object that circled the earth. That was in 1957.

A Russian man named Yuri was the first man into space. The year was 1961. Later, Russia sent the first woman into space. A man from Russia took the first walk in space. He left his spaceship and moved about in outer space. Only a thin tube connected him to the spaceship.

The United States has its own firsts. In 1962, an American, John Glenn, was the first to circle the earth in a spaceship. In 1969, the United States sent a spaceship to the moon. Neil Armstrong, an American, was the first to walk on the moon.

The United States also built the first spaceship that can return to earth. It is the space shuttle. Before the shuttle, spaceships would be left in space. Only a small part, with the crew inside, returned to earth.

In the mid-1970's, the United States sent a spaceship to take pictures of all the planets. It will never return to earth. It is the first spaceship to leave our solar system.



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Under the first column below, write four “firsts in space” for Russia. Under the second column, write four “firsts in space” for the United States.

**Firsts for Russia:**

**Firsts for the United States:**

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Use an encyclopedia or dictionary to find the following:

1. *Sputnik*: \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Valentina Tereshkova*: \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Challenger*: \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Sally Ride*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Russia

### Activity 1:

Chess is a very popular game in Russia. It is a very old game. It shows how well two people can think. Find “chess” in an encyclopedia. There are six different kinds of playing pieces used in the game. The winner of the game is the person who “captures” the other person’s king. Write the name of each playing piece under its picture below.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 2:

“The Nutcracker” is a story that comes from Russia. It is about the lovely dreams of a little girl. This story was put to music. A Russian man named Tchaikovsky (chī kov’ skē), wrote the music. Find the story of “The Nutcracker” at your library. Share the book with the class. Or, find a record or tape with the music. Listen to the music in class. You may know some of the songs. They are often heard during the holidays.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of China

jackets  
exercise

crowded  
cabbage

village  
relatives

loose  
clothes

radio  
extra

**Fill in the blanks with words from the box.**

China has the world's oldest civilization. People have lived here for thousands and thousands of years. China now has more people than any other land. It is very \_\_\_\_\_. One out of five people alive today lives in China. The people are called Chinese. Most of them are farmers.

The Chang family lives in a farm \_\_\_\_\_. Their home is made from brick, with a straw roof. Many \_\_\_\_\_ live with the Changs. Uncles, aunts, and grandparents share the home with the parents and children. This is common in China.

Instead of cars, the Changs ride bicycles. They own a \_\_\_\_\_, but not a television. When they want to watch TV, they go to the town hall. In China, there is one TV for every 60 people.

Each day starts with a half hour of \_\_\_\_\_. The Chinese like to keep fit. Most of the Changs work on the farm. The government tells them which crops to grow and how much of each. This year, they are raising \_\_\_\_\_ and rice. They must give the government most of the crops. They can keep or sell any \_\_\_\_\_.

The Changs wear clothes they make themselves. Boys and girls both wear pants and shirts or \_\_\_\_\_. Their cotton \_\_\_\_\_ are dark in color, and they are \_\_\_\_\_-fitting.

1. What do most Chinese people do for a living?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do the Chinese start each day?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who gets most of the crops the Changs raise?

\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## “Have You Eaten Today?”

In China, people don't say “hello,” they say, “Have you eaten today?”

The Changs eat chicken noodle soup for breakfast. For lunch, they have egg rolls or dumplings. For dinner, they eat chicken, shrimp, or duck. They also like mushrooms and bamboo shoots. A special treat would be a bowl of soup made from the fin of a shark. The Changs drink a lot of tea.

The Chang children must go to school for at least six years. They learn to read and write. There are schools for every age group, just like in the United States.

At night, the Changs take more classes. Even the adults go to school. They learn new ways to farm. They practice their reading. They might also learn about the government.

For fun, the Changs play sports. Volleyball is popular in China. So is table tennis. It is also called ping pong. They can play all these games at the town hall.

The Chinese do not have freedom of speech. They have to be careful what they say in public. They can't speak against the government. Someone who does might be sent to jail.

The Changs get their news from giant posters. These posters hang on walls in public places. Sheets of paper called newssheets are also given to the people. The news comes from Beijing, the capital of China.

Each neighborhood has a group of people who are in charge. These groups visit homes and solve problems. They keep a close watch on the people. In China, there is very little crime.



**Write the answers on the lines. Use words from the story.**

1. China has very little of this

\_\_\_\_\_

2. a popular sport

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

3. lunch food

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

4. soup is made from this fish

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

5. capital of China

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Write the letters in the squares on the lines below to find the name for money in China.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A Language Without Letters

China does not have an alphabet. To write in Chinese, people use characters. Each one stands for an object or an idea. There are 50,000 Chinese characters. Most people in China know about 5,000 of them.

Here are some Chinese characters. The first one means “up.” The second one means “down.”

上 下

Either of these characters may be put with others to form new words or ideas.

Throughout China, the language is written the same way. It is not spoken the same way. Each part of China has its own way of saying words.

In Chinese, the same word may be used to mean different things. A single word can mean “mother,” “horse,” or “scold.” People understand the correct meaning by hearing the speaker’s tone of voice. The tone gives meaning to words. Some Chinese use as many as nine voice tones. A high voice tone would give the word one meaning. A low voice tone would change the meaning. Or, a person might mix high and low tones for a new meaning.



**Copy the complete sentence from the story that tells about:**

1. what is used in place of an alphabet:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. what each character stands for:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. how many characters there are:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. how the language is written throughout China:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. what gives meaning to spoken words:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. how many voice tones may be used:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Signs of the Times

China has its own calendar. It is not based on the movement of the sun like ours in the United States. It is based on the movement of the moon. Each month begins on the night of the new moon.

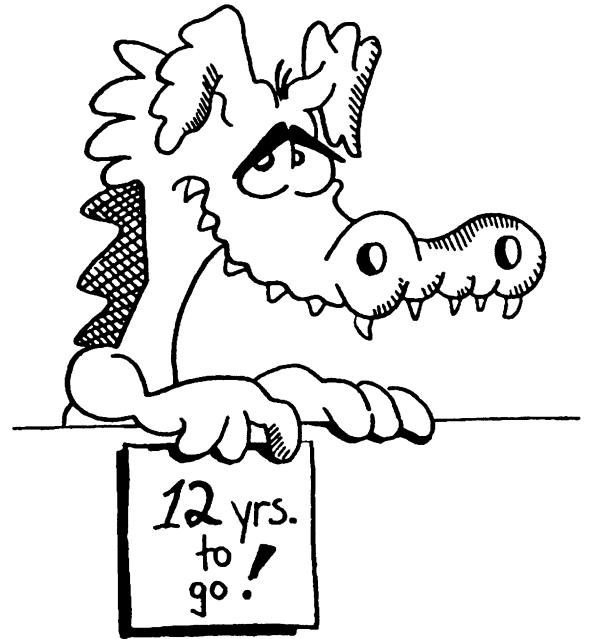
When winter comes, the Chinese wait for the second new moon. That night marks the Chinese New Year. The New Year date changes each year. It comes between January 20 and February 20.

To celebrate New Year's Day, the Chinese beat on pots and pans with sticks. They watch fireworks. They also give their family members money. The coins are hidden in food. If you bite into a dumpling, you may find a surprise!

In China, each year has its own animal sign. The signs are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, and snake. They also include the horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. They year of the dragon was 2000. In 2012 it will be the year of the dragon again.

Each animal stands for certain traits. A person born in the year of the dog is said to be loyal. A person born in the year of the rabbit is said to be lucky.

The Chinese calendar was first used in the year 2637 B.C. The year 2000 in the United States was the year 4637 in China!



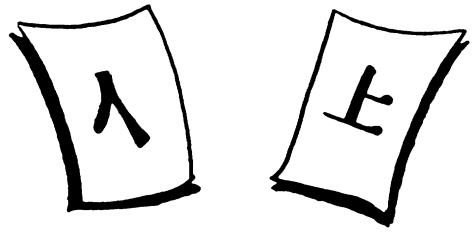
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### Use the story to answer the questions.

1. On what is the Chinese calendar based? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When is the date of the Chinese New Year? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How is money given? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does each year have? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How often does the year of the tiger come? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What might you be like if you were born in the year of the dog? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When was the Chinese calendar first used? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## China



### Activity 1:

The Chinese have given us many good things. Use an encyclopedia to find one of the subjects listed below. Write a three-paragraph report on the topic.

compass

table tennis

Chinese art

acupuncture (medicine with needles)

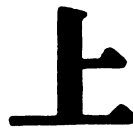
### Activity 2:

The Chinese do not write with pens. They use brushes. This helps them draw the strokes for characters. They also paint with brushes. The things they paint most often are hills and trees.

Find a paintbrush and watercolor paints. Use the brush to practice these strokes. Each character stands for a word. Then make up some new characters of your own. Tell what objects or ideas they mean. For more fun, try painting the characters on small pieces of cotton or silk cloth.



man



up



trust

Draw your new characters:

## An Overview of India

India is a very old country. It is believed the country was first settled at least 4,500 years ago. (\_\_\_\_)

India is known for its jewels, rugs, silks, and spices. It is a land with many looks. It has deserts and jungles. The tallest mountains in the world are here. So are some low, flat plains and deep rivers. (\_\_\_\_)

India is in southern Asia. To the south lies the Indian Ocean. Its neighbors include China and Myanmar. (\_\_\_\_)

The biggest cities are Bombay and New Delhi. In the cities, the people walk, ride bicycles, or travel in carts pulled by animals. Sometimes cows walk through the streets or go inside buildings. No one tries to stop them. In India, cows are sacred. They can do as they please. (\_\_\_\_)

Majal is a young girl from a village near New Delhi. She wears her native costume. It is a long dress called a sari. She has one in dark red and one in deep green. She also wears earrings and bracelets. (\_\_\_\_)

Like most girls and women, Majal wears a kumkum. It is a round dot on her forehead. She paints it on with red or black powder. The kumkum is a sign of beauty. (\_\_\_\_)

The men and boys of India wear turbans on their heads. They wear long pieces of bright-colored cloth around their bodies. (\_\_\_\_)

Majal speaks Hindi. There are at least 14 other common languages spoken in India. Many people speak one of thousands of less common languages. Most Indians speak at least two languages. (\_\_\_\_)



---

**Think about the main idea in each paragraph. Read the main ideas below.**  
**In the blank, write the letter that matches each paragraph with its main idea.**

**Main Ideas:**

- a. what women wear
- b. the way the land looks
- c. the languages
- d. what men and boys wear
- e. where India is found
- f. a sign of beauty
- g. how old India is
- h. cities, carts, and cows

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## In Honor of a Queen

Once there was a king of India who was very sad. His wife, the queen, had died. He wanted people to think of her often. He built a huge building in her honor.

The building is called the Taj Mahal. It is a lovely building to see. Although it is in India, people around the world have heard of it.

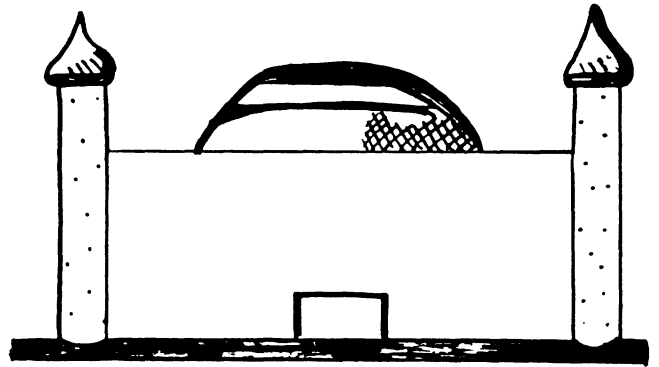
It took more than 20 years to build the Taj Mahal. It took 20,000 workers to complete the job. It was finished in the year 1653.

A man from Turkey designed the stunning building. The main material used is white marble.

The whole building rests on a red platform made from sandstone. A giant, white dome is in the center. Flower patterns are painted on the inside walls.

At each of the four corners there is a tower. Each tower is 133 feet high. That is as tall as a 13-story building.

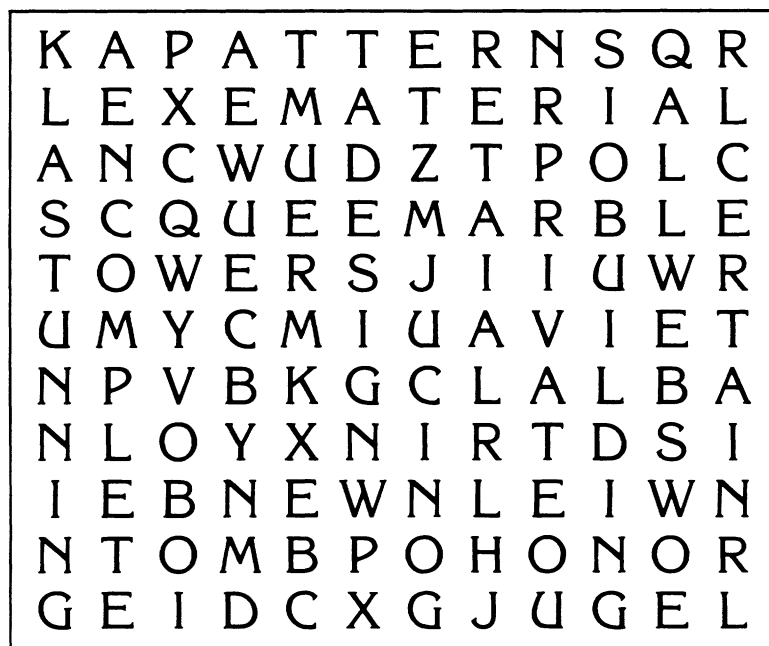
If you ever go to India, you may want to visit the Taj Mahal. You can walk only through certain parts of it. One private area is set aside. It contains the queen's tomb.



---

**Find and circle the words below in the puzzle. The words go across and down.**

building  
honor  
complete  
stunning  
design  
material  
marble  
patterns  
private  
certain  
tomb  
towers



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The People of India

India has more people than any other country except China. One out of six people alive today lives in India. Most of them are very poor.

In the north, the people have light skin. In the south, they are dark, like Majal.

Majal's family lives in the country. Her parents are farmers. They grow cotton and rice. Indian people eat mostly vegetables. They sometimes eat chicken and lamb. The food is often cooked with a hot spice called curry. For dessert, Majal likes pastries stuffed with potatoes. She drinks tea and fruit juices.

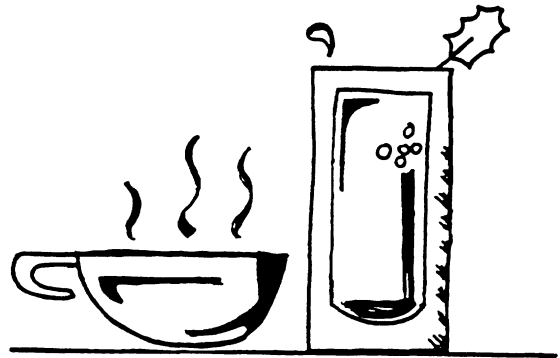
In her village, the people live in one- or two-room huts made from straw. The huts have mud floors.

Only one out of three people in India can read or write. Many of Majal's friends quit school after the fifth grade. Majal wants to stay in school as long as she can.

For years, India's people have been divided into groups called castes. A person is born into his or her caste. He or she can never change to a new caste. Each caste has its own rules. Some let a person eat only food prepared by someone else from the same caste.

The lowest caste is the "untouchables." They can be hired only for the worst jobs. They beg for food and often live on the streets.

India is slowly changing its caste system. In the future, members of different castes may be able to become friends or to work together.



---

**Write one or more facts about India's people for each topic below:**

1. number of the world's people who live in India: \_\_\_\_\_
2. how the people look: \_\_\_\_\_
3. what meats they eat: \_\_\_\_\_
4. what their homes are like: \_\_\_\_\_
5. how many people can read and write: \_\_\_\_\_
6. how the people are divided: \_\_\_\_\_
7. what the lowest group of people is called: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Tales from India

chief answers	raised taught	newspaper Courageous	travelers railroad	stories popular
------------------	------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

A world-famous writer by the name of Rudyard Kipling grew up in India. He lived from 1865-1936.

Perhaps you have read some of his children's books and \_\_\_\_\_. One of them is *The Jungle Book*. It is about a boy from India named Mowgli. He is \_\_\_\_\_ in the jungle by a pack of wolves.

Kipling was born in Bombay. His father \_\_\_\_\_ art in that city. His parents were from England, and he could read and write English. Kipling went to school in England for a while when he was a young boy. At that time, India was ruled by England.

When Kipling was 12 years old, he became the \_\_\_\_\_ writer for his school paper. When he was 17, he got his first real job working for a \_\_\_\_\_. He wrote poems and stories about life in India. The paper was sold in \_\_\_\_\_ stations. Many \_\_\_\_\_ read Kipling's stories. He became a \_\_\_\_\_ writer.

His "Just So Stories" have \_\_\_\_\_ to funny questions. One question is how the elephant got its trunk. Another question is how the leopard got its spots.

You might know the names of other Kipling stories. "Wee Willie Winkie" is one. "Gunga Din" is a long poem about heroes. *Captains Courageous* is about life at sea. "\_\_\_\_\_ " means "brave."

In all, Kipling wrote 300 stories. He told the world about life in India.

1. Who raised Mowgli?

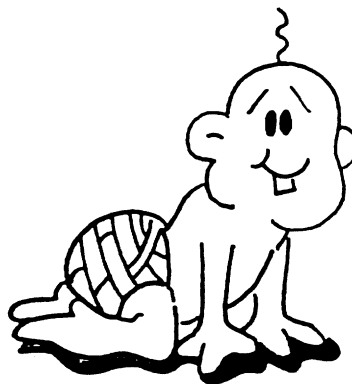
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who ruled India during Kipling's time?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Kipling tell the world?

\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# India



## Activity 1:

Listed below are some people, places, and things from India. Choose one of the topics. Write a two- or three-paragraph report. Use an encyclopedia or other resource book.

the Ghandi family

sanskrit

cashmere

Himalayas

Constitution Day

## Activity 2:

Many animals from India can be seen in zoos. They include the tiger, rhinoceros, cobra, and cashmere goat. Two other animals from India are the water buffalo and the mongoose.

Read about one of these animals in a library book. Then draw a picture of the animal. Show the animal in its natural surroundings — in a jungle, by a river, or some other place.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of Japan

Japan is an island country in the Pacific Ocean. It is made up of four big islands and 3,000 smaller ones. Japan's neighbors are China, Russia, and Korea.

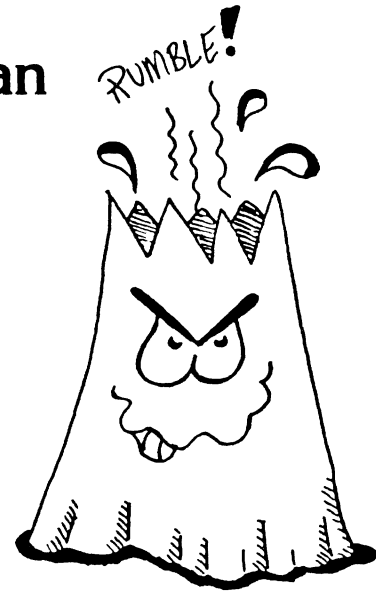
This Asian country has many mountains. The only low, flat places are along the coast. That is where most of the people live. That is also where the big cities are found. Tokyo is the capital of Japan.

The people are called Japanese. That is also the name of their language. It is quite crowded in Japan. Only six other countries have more people.

For years the emperor ruled Japan. He had all the power. Now the power belongs to the people. They elect members of the Diet. The Diet is like our United States Congress. The people also choose a prime minister, who is like our President.

Here is the way Japan's weather report might sound for a June day: "Heavy rains today. This should be good for the farmers. Expect a high temperature near 86 degrees. You might feel four or five gentle earthquakes, but don't worry. None of them will be strong enough to bring a tidal wave. Oh, and watch out for that smoking volcano. It might erupt, but there should be no danger."

Japan has 60 active volcanoes. Each year, it has 1,500 mild earthquakes. The heavy rains sometimes turn into big storms called typhoons.



---

**Use words from the story to answer the questions.**

1. How many islands make up the country of Japan?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who are Japan's neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the capital of Japan? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the name of the language? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is like our United States Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is a giant wave called? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are big storms with heavy rains called? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Land of the Rising Sun

Japan is called the "land of the rising sun." Its flag has a bright red sun in the center.

The people are hard workers. They are the world's greatest fishermen. Their factories produce more goods than any other country except the United States. The Japanese make cars, televisions, and computers. These goods are shipped around the world.

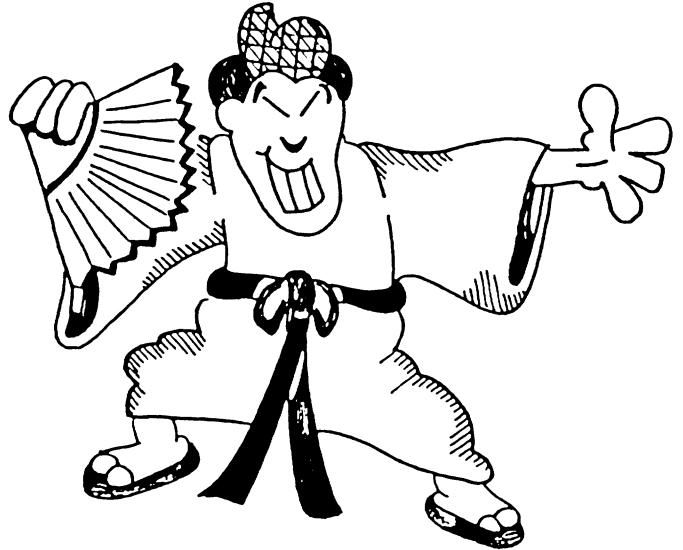
The workers enjoy special holidays. New Year's Day is January 1. The parties last for three days. The emperor's birthday is also a special day. So is Constitution Day on May 3. It is like our Fourth of July.

On special days, the people may wear native costumes. The kimono is a long robe with huge sleeves. It is not worn at bedtime. It is a formal outfit to be worn only at big events. A sash, or big belt, is tied around the waist. Flat sandals are worn on the feet.

Most of the time, people in Japan wear Western-style clothing like that worn in the United States.

The Japanese like to eat fish. Sometimes they wrap the fish in seaweed. Other times they eat the fish raw. They also eat rice, cabbage, and eggplant. They often mix vegetables in a batter and fry them. Instead of spices, they use soy sauce. It is made from soybeans.

All these foods are eaten with two sticks called chopsticks. They take the place of forks.



---

### Write a definition for each word.

1. sash: \_\_\_\_\_
2. chopsticks: \_\_\_\_\_
3. seaweed: \_\_\_\_\_
4. factory: \_\_\_\_\_
5. computer: \_\_\_\_\_
6. kimono: \_\_\_\_\_
7. soybeans: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## At Home in Japan

In big Japanese cities, the people live in apartments. In the country, they live in one- or two-story homes. These wooden homes have a certain look. Their roofs are made with tiles. The roofs curve up at the edges.

Most homes have lovely gardens. The Japanese grow the world's smallest trees. They are less than 12 inches tall. They are bonsai trees.

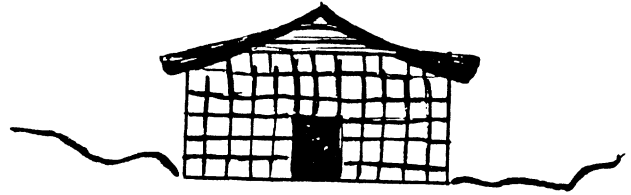
Shoes are never worn in the homes. They are left at the door. People put on slippers before entering their homes.

Inside, the homes are simple and pretty. Instead of carpet, the floors are covered with thin mats. The walls in these homes are tall screens made from wood and paper. These screens are very light. They can be moved to make any room larger or smaller.

Each room may serve more than one purpose. By day, one room is the living room. By night, it becomes a bedroom. Soft beds called futons are removed from closets. The next morning, the futons are folded and placed in closets.

The dining room has a very low table. It is only one or two feet above the floor. To eat, one must sit on pillows on the floor.

In Japan, many members of a family live under the same roof. Grandparents live with their children and grandchildren. Family members feel close to each other.



---

### Copy the complete sentence from the story that tells:

1. what the roofs are made with: \_\_\_\_\_
2. what the world's smallest trees are called:  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. what is never worn inside:  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. what covers the floors: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. what takes the place of walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. how one must eat:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## From Kendo to Kabuki

The Yokoyama family lives in Tokyo. Mr. Yokoyama is a teacher. One day, some guests from the United States stopped at his school. They were the Johnsons. Mr. Yokoyama brought the Johnsons home for dinner. His wife and children wanted the Johnsons to stay for the weekend. They showed them how the Japanese have fun.

On Saturday, the boys played baseball. This sport is well-liked in Japan. It gave the boys something in common to share.

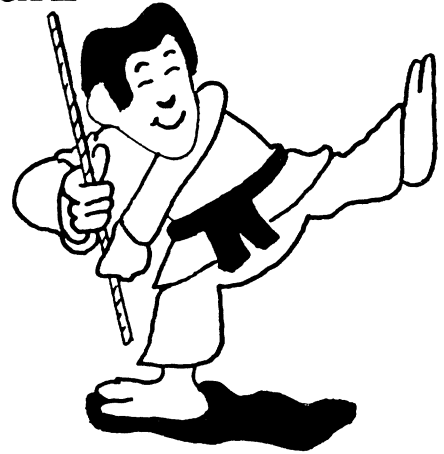
Meanwhile, the girls went to a puppet theater. These plays are loved by children. The puppets are quite large. They are not hand puppets. They are moved by strings. Puppet handlers move the strings. The children could see the puppet handlers during the play. They did not try to hide from the children.

Mrs. Yokoyama and Mrs. Johnson went to the Ginza. That is where most of the best shops are. Mrs. Johnson bought a picture of Mt. Fuji. It is a tall mountain that can be seen from Tokyo.

Mr. Yokoyama and Mr. Johnson went to a kendo match. Kendo is a sport like fencing. Instead of swords, bamboo sticks are used. Two people fight until one drops his stick.

That night, both families went to see a Kabuki. This is a type of play. The actors wore a lot of makeup and wigs. Their costumes come in bright colors. The play is about life in Japan.

Both families had a great time!



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**Write the answers on the lines. Use words from the story.**

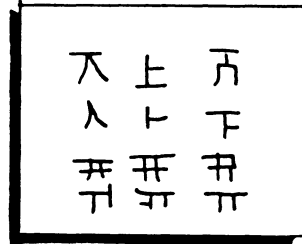
- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. wood used to make kendo sticks | _____ |
| 2. what the children like to see  | _____ |
| 3. city near Mt. Fuji             | _____ |
| 4. a sport like fencing           | _____ |
| 5. a place to shop in Tokyo       | _____ |
| 6. a type of play in Japan        | _____ |

Write the letters in the squares on the lines below to find the name for money in Japan.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Japan



## Activity 1:

The Japanese have a special kind of poem. It is called the haiku. The poem is four lines long. The whole poem has 17 syllables. Here are some haiku poems. Read these examples, and then write a haiku poem of your own. Use “nature” as a topic. The poem does not have to rhyme but it can have only 17 syllables.

A bright autumn moon...

In the shadow of

Each grass

An insect chirping

Standing still at dusk

Listen...In far

Distances

The song of froglings!

---

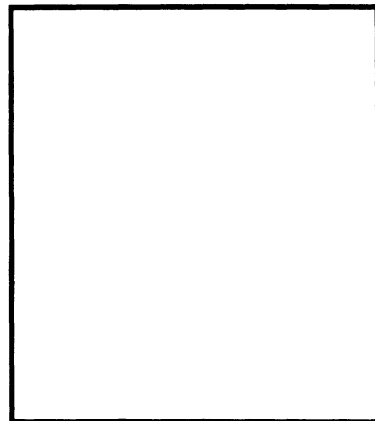
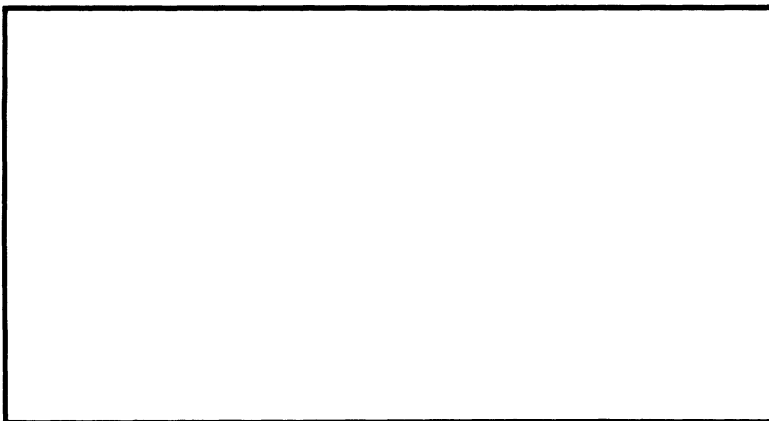
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## Activity 2:

Draw the flag of Japan and the Imperial Coat of Arms. Use an encyclopedia to help you.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of the Philippines

The Philippines is an island country. The islands lie far off the coast of China, in the Pacific Ocean.

This country is made up of 7,000 islands. Only 11 of them are big. Most of the islands do not have people living on them.

Sailors from Spain discovered these islands. They named them after a king of Spain. That was in the year 1521.

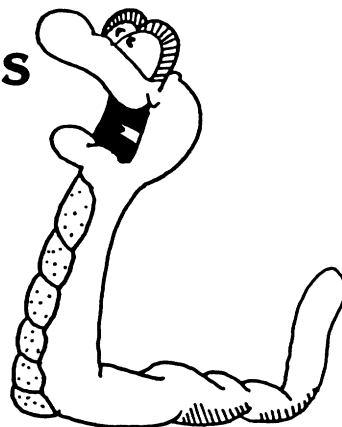
The islands are really the tips of mountains. The rest of the mountains are beneath the ocean. Some of these mountains are volcanoes that are still active.

The weather in the Philippines is always wet and warm. May is the hottest month. The temperature may reach 100 degrees. At times, heavy rainstorms called typhoons occur.

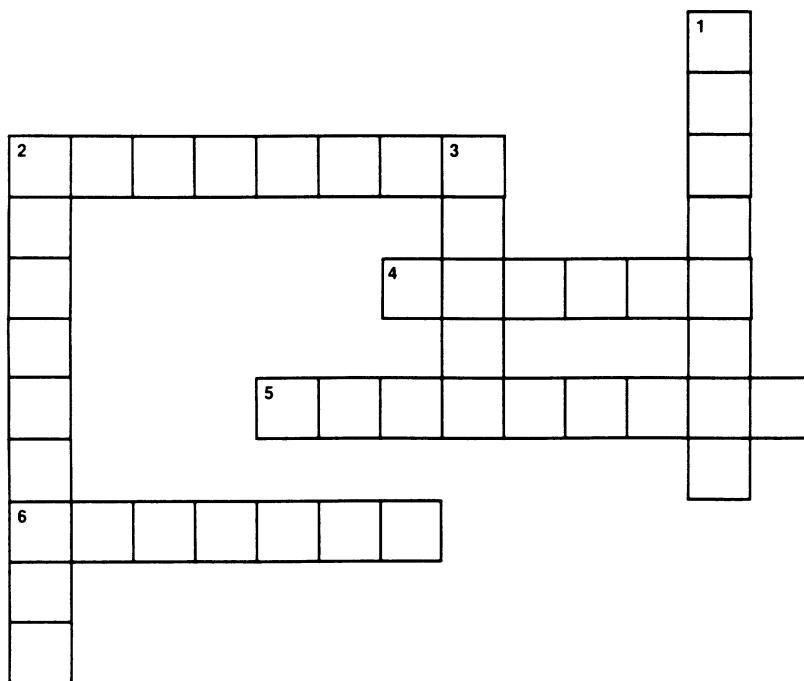
The rain makes the land very green. There are many thick forests. Some of the trees that grow in the Philippines are the palm, bamboo, and banyan. More than 9,000 kinds of flowers grow here, too.

Monkeys and snakes live in the jungles. Crocodiles live in the rivers. The farmers plow their land with the help of the water buffalo. This is a very large, cow-like animal with horns.

The farmers grow bananas, coconuts, and corn. They also grow pineapples, sugar cane, and rice. They farm on the sides of the mountains.



Use the clues and words from the story to fill in the puzzle.



### Across:

2. farmers grow these
4. a kind of tree
5. the islands are the tips of \_\_\_\_\_
6. 11 of these are big

### Down:

1. heavy rainstorms
2. this animal swims in rivers
3. the islands were named after the king of this country

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Life on the Islands

The people of the Philippines have dark hair and skin. They are called Filipinos. They come from China, Spain, the United States, and the nearby islands of Malaysia.

Filipinos may live in cities or farm villages. Manila is the largest city. It is a port where large ships dock.

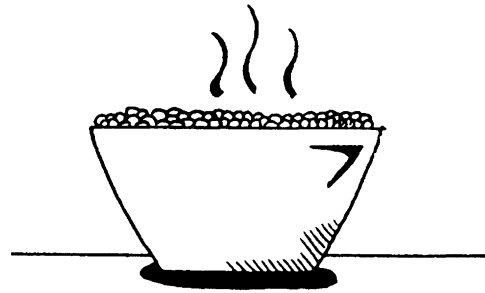
The homes in the Philippines are made from wood. The roofs are straw or iron. Many people raise flowers in gardens.

The people eat rice at all meals. They also eat a lot of chicken and pork. They like hot spices.

Filipinos do not have some things we take for granted in the United States. Only one out of 80 people has a car. One television may be shared by 15 people.

Most people in the Philippines live a simple life. They love to study. Nearly all the people can read and write. Children spend up to 12 years in school. Many of them go to college.

The Philippines have been free since July 4, 1946. Before that, they were governed by the United States. For a short time, Japan ruled the islands. Long ago, Spain was in control. Now the people have a president. Her name is Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.



---

### Use words from the story to answer the questions.

1. What are the people of the Philippines called? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the largest city? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Of what are homes made?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do the people eat? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What can most of the people do? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name three countries who once governed the Philippines.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is the president of the Philippines?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Active Volcano

There are many volcanoes on the Philippine Islands. One of them is Mount Pinatubo. It is about one hour from Manila by car.

For 600 years, this volcano was quiet. There was no sign it could still be active. In June, 1991, it came to life. A blast of hot ash poured from its top. The wind carried the ash hundreds of miles.

Many more blasts followed. Thousands of people were forced to flee their homes. Many of them are people from the United States who lived on the two military bases nearby.

When a volcano erupts, it makes a sound like thunder. It causes earthquakes. Mud slides down the mountain and buries towns. The ash can be a foot deep. It becomes hard to breathe.

Other problems happen as a result of an active volcano. Power lines fall down. People do not have lights, or heat to cook food. Water pipes burst. A simple drink of clean water can be hard to find.

Sometimes the ash ends up in the atmosphere. Then the sky can turn red from the dust. This can change the weather on the other side of the earth!

More than 250 people died when Mount Pinatubo woke from its sleep. It may erupt again at any time.



**Find and circle the words below in the puzzle. The words go across and down.**

erupts

active

burst

power

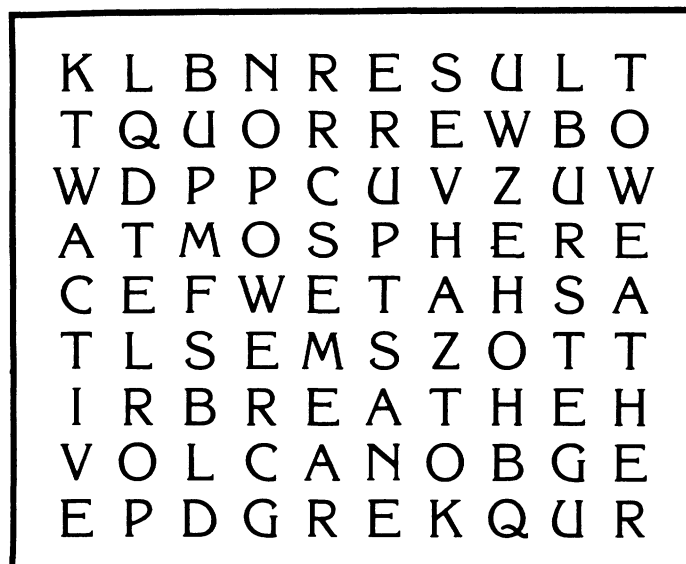
result

breathe

volcano

weather

atmosphere



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking Tagalog

The Filipino people come from many backgrounds. Their language is a mix of words from all these lands. It is called "tagalog."

On special days, a Filipino boy might wear his "barong." This is a lovely shirt that is sewn by hand. The shirt is part of the boy's native costume. It is made from the fibers of pineapples!

For dinner, a Filipino family might eat "adobo." It is a chicken dish with soy sauce and vinegar.

A "tuba" is a drink, not a horn. It is made from coconuts.

Many of the people do not have cars. In the cities, they ride taxis. These taxis have two names. One is "jeepney." It comes from the word "jeep." Jeepneys are painted bright colors.

The other kind of taxi is a "pedicab." "Pedi" means "foot" or "feet." A pedicab is like a bicycle. The Filipinos pedal these bicycles which pull small, covered wagons. The passengers ride in the wagons.

People pay for these rides with Spanish coins. The peso is the most common form of money in the Philippines.

Almost all Filipino children learn to speak English as well as tagalog.



---

**Write the meaning next to each word.**

1. tagalog: \_\_\_\_\_
2. barong: \_\_\_\_\_
3. adobo: \_\_\_\_\_
4. tuba: \_\_\_\_\_
5. jeepney: \_\_\_\_\_
6. pedicab: \_\_\_\_\_
7. peso: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Philippines

## Activity 1:

Coconuts are grown in the Philippines. Look under “coconut palm” in an encyclopedia.

1. Name the four countries who grow the most coconut palms?

---

---

2. How many coconuts are produced annually in the Philippines? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How tall can the coconut palm grow? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the coconut a fruit or vegetable? \_\_\_\_\_

5. List four things for which the coconut palm or its fruit are used:

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Visit a food store. Buy a coconut. Ask a parent or your teacher to help cut it open. Be careful, there is milk inside. Taste the milk. Then use a fork or spoon to taste the coconut. Share the information you found in the encyclopedia, and your coconut, with others in class.

## Activity 2:

**Abaca** is a tough fiber grown in the Philippines. This fiber is weaved into **hemp**, the strongest type of rope. **Sugar cane** is another major crop grown in the Philippines. Use an encyclopedia to help you write a short report about one of these products.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of Thailand

Thailand is in southeast Asia. Its name means "land of the free." Thailand has never been ruled by any country from the western world.

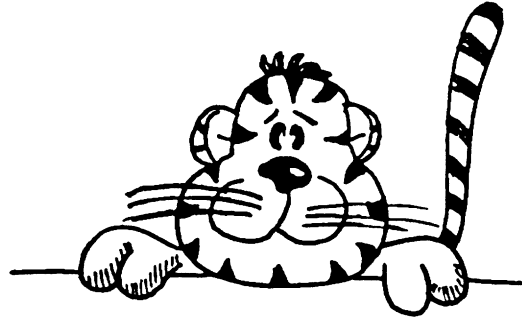
Thailand has three neighbors. They are Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. The people are called Thais. Long ago, their ancestors settled here from China.

Most Thais are farmers. They live in small towns. Thailand has one big city. It is the capital, Bangkok.

Thailand has many forests, rivers, and mountains. It is a wet country. It rains for at least six months of the year. These rains are called monsoons. The rains come in the spring and summer. Thailand also has winter, but no fall season.

The land is home to many wild animals. There are tigers and snakes. Wild pigs, called boars, roam through the jungles. At one time, many wild elephants lived in Thailand. Very few of these remain.

Much of the world's tin comes from mines in Thailand. There are thick bamboo forests. The teak tree grows here, too. Teakwood makes lovely furniture.



---

**Copy the complete sentence from the story that tells:**

1. where Thailand is located:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. what its name means:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. what the people are called:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. the name of the one big city:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. the name of the rains:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. what wild animals once lived in Thailand:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. a use for the teak tree:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Thailand — Every Day and Holidays

Tanya lives in Thailand. She was born in the United States. Her father is with a construction company . He was sent to work in Thailand for three years. He brought his family with him. (\_\_\_\_)

Tanya learns the Thai language at school. She can speak with most of her classmates. Most Thai children can read and write Thai and English. They go to a free school until the sixth grade. After that, it costs money to go to school. If parents can't afford to pay, the children stop going to school. (\_\_\_\_)

At school, Tanya wears the same clothes she would wear in the United States. Her Thai friends dress like she dresses. Some of their parents still wear the native costume, called a panung. A panung is a piece of cloth made from cotton or silk. It is wrapped around the body. (\_\_\_\_)

During holidays, the Thai people go to festivals. Then they wear a special type of clothes. The pants stop just below the knee. The shirts are tight. The extra big shoulders turn up. Jewels are sewn by hand all over these clothes. On their heads, the Thai wear very pointed hats. They also wear bracelets around their ankles. These clothes are often worn for dancing. (\_\_\_\_)

The Thai like to sing and dance. They also play sports. They enjoy soccer and ball games. The object of one of these games is to keep the ball in the air. They use their heads, legs, and feet to keep the ball from hitting the ground. (\_\_\_\_)



---

**Think about the main idea in each paragraph. Read the main ideas below. In the blank, write the letter that matches each paragraph with its main idea.**

### Main Ideas:

- a. school in Thailand
- b. a native costume made from cotton or silk
- c. sports in Thailand
- d. why Tanya lives in Thailand
- e. special clothes for festivals

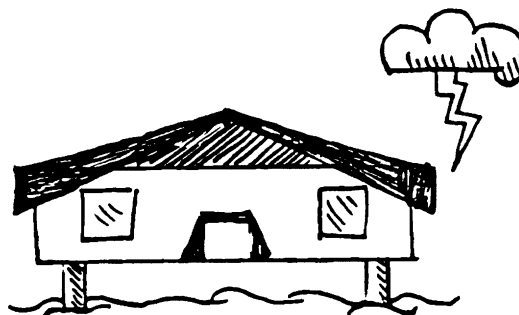
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Stilts, Sampans, and Smiles

Tanya lives in a house on stilts! The stilts keep the house dry during the monsoons. All the homes in Thailand are built this way. Cows, pigs, and other farm animals sleep under the homes.

The Thai people eat a lot of rice. They like salads and fish dishes. They also enjoy stews made with hot spices. Curry is a favorite spice.

Tanya likes shopping for food. She and her parents often visit the markets in Bangkok. These markets aren't inside a building. They are on the water. They are called floating markets.



Bangkok is a port. Many canals run through the city. The farmers sell food from boats. The boats are called sampans. The canals can get quite crowded as the farmers row the sampans from place to place selling their goods.

The goods the farmers sell are crops like rice, corn, and sugar. They also sell rope, cotton, and other things the people need.

Tanya and her parents pay for their groceries with Thai money. The main form of money is the baht. Each baht is worth about two cents in American money.

Most Thais live fairly well. They have nice homes, food, and other goods they need. The people of Thailand are friendly. In fact, their country is often called "the land of smiles."

Use the code to learn more about Thailand.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- the first name given to Thailand    19 9 1 13
- a beautiful animal that first came from Thailand    19 9 1 13 5 19 5    3 1 20
- a favorite sport in Thailand    11 9 20 5    6 9 7 8 20 9 14 7
- a popular movie that takes place in Thailand    " 20 8 5    11 9 14 7    1 14 4    9 "

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Buildings for Good Luck

One day, Tanya saw a tall, strange-looking building. It had many floors, or stories. Each story had its own roof. The roofs all curved up.

Tanya asked her father about the building. He told her it is called a pagoda. Pagodas can be found in many countries in the Far East.

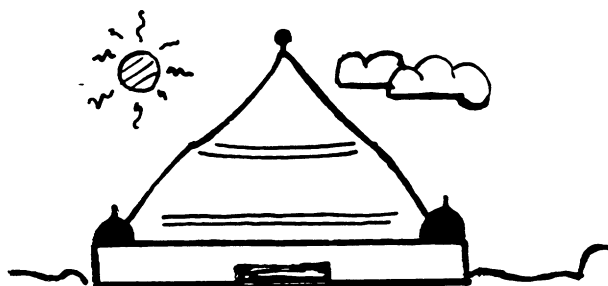
The first pagodas were built in India. Later, they were built in Japan, China, and Thailand.

A pagoda is like a church. The people believe the buildings bring them good luck. They think they will be rich and happy if they live near a pagoda.

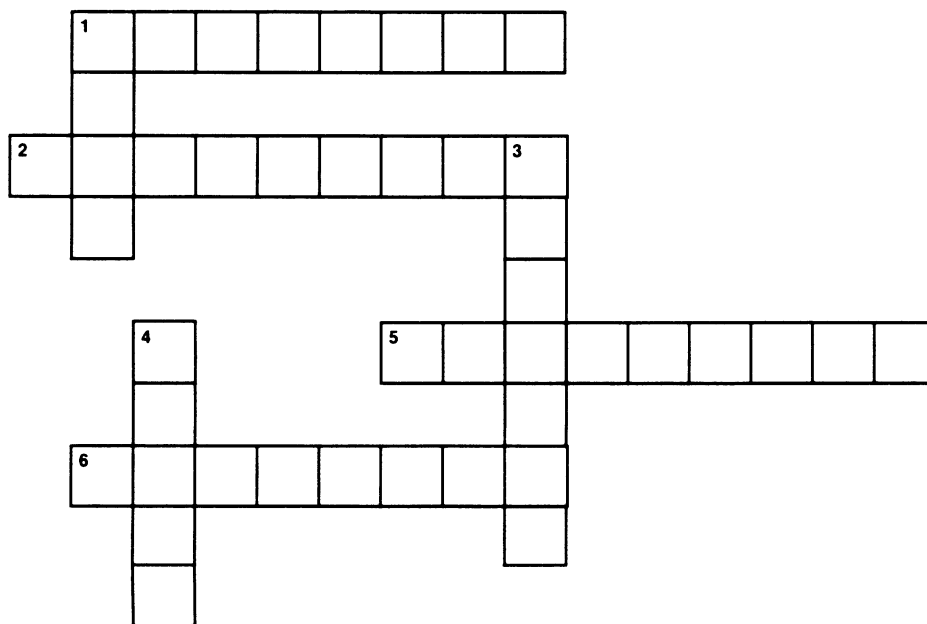
These buildings are very fancy. They are made from materials like wood or concrete. Some are made with porcelain. That is a hard, white clay. The roofs are made with tile.

Some pagodas are decorated with bones. Others use ivory. Ivory is made from elephant tusks.

A pagoda can be up to 15 stories tall. It always has an odd number of stories — 3, 5, 7, and so on. The stories get smaller near the top. The top story is the smallest of all.



Use the clues and words from the story to fill in this puzzle.



### Across:

1. a land with pagodas
2. large, gray animals
5. a hard, white clay
6. material used to build pagodas

### Down:

1. used on the roofs of pagodas
3. a pagoda always has an odd number of these
4. made from elephant tusks

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Thailand

## Activity 1:

Thailand has many forests. Teak is a kind of tree that grows there. Teakwood is often used to make chairs and tables.

Write a report on teak. Use an encyclopedia to help you. Find out these things: what it looks like; places where it grows; whether it is hard or soft; other uses for the wood.

Share your report with the class.

## Activity 2:

Choose one of these projects:

1. Find out how curry tastes. Curry is the spice that is used in many countries in the Far East. You can find curry in any big food store. It will be in the spice section. Sprinkle some on hard-cooked eggs, or try it on fish.

Read the label on the bottle to find out more dishes in which curry is used.

2. Play a ball game that Thai children like to play. In Thailand, children use a ball made from wicker. You should use one that is light. A Nerf™ ball would work well.

Form groups of six people. Divide each group into two teams of three. Each group will need their own ball.

The object of the game is to see which team can keep the ball in the air the longest. You may use your head, legs, and feet — but no arms or hands. Only the person who puts the ball into play may use his/her hands, and only for that reason.

The score starts at zero. Sooner or later, someone will drop the ball. That person's team must lose a point. The other team gains a point. The team that reaches five points first is the winner.

Be careful not to kick or hit other people when you play!

**PAGE 1:** 1) Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union 2) Russian 3) former kings; had all the power; some were very cruel 4) Communist Party 5) freedom to elect leaders and run their own lives 6) Moscow; busy place; parades and celebrations held in its center; location of the Kremlin and a large church

**PAGE 2:** 1) very cold 2) ballet 3) museums 4) McDonald's 5) athletics

**PAGE 3:** automobile, bus, football, Michael, John, photograph, America

**PAGE 4:** Russian firsts: send up a spaceship, first man in space, first woman in space, first walk in space American firsts: first to circle earth, first spaceship to the moon, first to walk on moon, spaceship that returns to earth, spaceship to leave our solar system 1) first satellite put in orbit 2) female cosmonaut 3) American space shuttle that is designed to land on earth like an airplane and can be reused; the Challenger shuttle exploded on lift-off 4) female astronaut

**PAGE 5:** king, queen, bishop knight, rook, pawn

**PAGE 6:** crowded, village, relatives, radio, exercise, cabbage, extra, jackets, clothes, loose 1) farm 2) half-hour exercise 3) government

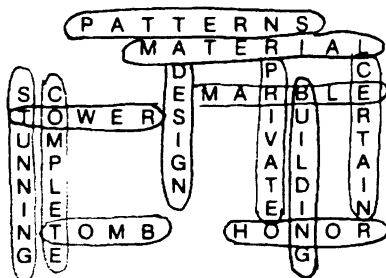
**PAGE 7:** 1) crime 2) volleyball 3) dumplings 4) shark 5) Beijing YUAN

**PAGE 8:** 1) To write in Chinese, people use characters. 2) Each one stands for an object or an idea. 3) There are 50,000 Chinese characters. 4) Throughout China, the language is written the same way. 5) The tone gives meaning to words. 6) Some Chinese use as many as nine voice tones.

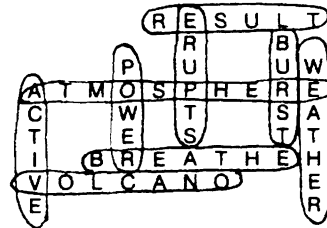
**PAGE 9:** 1) movement of the moon 2) second full moon in winter 3) in food 4) an animal sign 5) every 12 years 6) loyal 7) 2637 B.C.

**PAGE 11:** g-b-e-h-a-f-d-c

**PAGE 12:**



**PAGE 23:**



**PAGE 13:** 1) one of six 2) light in north, dark in south 3) chicken and lamb 4) straw huts with mud floors 5) one of three 6) into castes 7) untouchables

**PAGE 14:** stories, raised, taught, chief, newspaper, railroad, travelers, popular, answers, Courageous 1) wolves 2) England 3) about life in India

**PAGE 16:** 1) 4 big, 3,000 small 2) China, Russia, Korea 3) Tokyo 4) Japanese 5) the Diet 6) tidal wave 7) typhoons

**PAGE 17:** 1) wide belt 2) wooden sticks used as forks 3) plant from the ocean 4) place where goods are made 5) machine that can do many functions 6) long robe with big sleeves 7) a plant used to make soy sauce

**PAGE 18:** 1) Their roofs are made with tiles. 2) They are bonsai trees. 3) Shoes are never worn in the homes. 4) Instead of carpet, the floors are covered with thin mats. 5) The walls in these homes are tall screens made from wood and paper. 6) To eat, one must sit on pillows on the floor.

**PAGE 19:** 1) bamboo 2) puppets 3) Tokyo 4) Kendo 5) Ginza 6) Kabuki YEN

**PAGE 21:** Across: 2) coconuts 4) bamboo 5) mountains 6) islands Down: 1) typhoons 2) crocodile 3) Spain

**PAGE 22:** 1) Filipinos 2) Manila 3) wood 4) rice, chicken, pork 5) read and write 6) United States, Japan, Spain 7) Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

**PAGE 24:** 1) language of the Filipino people 2) lovely shirt 3) chicken dish with soy sauce and vinegar 4) drink made from coconuts 5) a kind of taxi 6) a taxi like a bicycle with a wagon behind it 7) Spanish money

**PAGE 25:** 1) Philippines, Indonesia, India, Malaysia 2) 2,508,000 3) 40-100 feet 4) fruit 5) sugar, vinegar, alcoholic beverages; build houses and bridges from wood; hats, mats, baskets from leaves

**PAGE 26:** 1) Thailand is in southeast Asia. 2) Its name means "land of the free." 3) The people are called Thais. 4) It is the capital, Bangkok. 5) These rains are called monsoons. 6) At one time, many wild elephants lived in Thailand. 7) Teakwood makes lovely furniture.

**PAGE 27:** d-a-b-e-c

**PAGE 28:** 1) Siam 2) Siamese cat 3) kite fighting 4) The King and I

**PAGE 29:** Across: 1) Thailand 2) elephants 5) porcelain 6) concrete Down: 1) tile 3) stories 4) ivory